

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 22583 221544Z
ACTION CPR-01

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 /032 W
-----126169 221721Z /40

R 221511Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3333

UNCLAS CAIRO 22583

FOR S/CPR AND NEA/EGY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDIP
SUBJECT: GIFTS FOR PRESIDENT CARTER

REF: 2 FAM 371.4

1. OVER THE LAST TEN DAYS THE EMBASSY HAS HAD TWO GIFTS FOR PRESIDENT CARTER DELIVERED TO IT UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO REFUSE THEM WITHOUT GIVING OFFENSE TO THE DONORS. EMBASSY REQUESTS DEPARTMENT'S ADVICE AS TO DISPOSITION OF THESE GIFTS. THEY ARE AS FOLLOWS:

2. PEACE PLAQUE. JUST AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON WAS ARRIVING AT THE EMBASSY ON DECEMBER 13 (DAY PRIOR TO CONVENING OF CAIRO CONFERENCE), A DELEGATION LED BY MOHAMED ABDEL MAGSOOD MUSTAFA, PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE KORAN, ARRIVED UNANNOUNCED AT THE EMBASSY WITH A HANDSOME PLAQUE INSCRIBED TO PRESIDENT CARTER AS A LEADER FOR PEACE AND PRESENTED IT TO DCM FOR FORWARDING TO PRESIDENT. PLAQUE DEPICTS THE TOMB OF THE ROCK, A PEACE PIDGEON FLYING TOWARDS IT WITH AN OLIVE BRANCH IN ITS BEAK, THE KORAN OPENED TO A TEXT ABOUT PEACE, THE NEW MOON AS A SYMBOL OF THE MUSLIM FAITH AND THE SPIDER WEB SYMBOLIZING MOHAMMED'S ESCAPE FROM HIS
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 CAIRO 22583 221544Z

ENEMIES DURING HIS JOURNEY FROM MECCA TO MEDINA. WHILE PLAQUE IS PROBABLY NOT OF GREAT INTRINSIC VALUE, ITS WORKMANSHIP IS EXCELLENT. ITS SIZE IS ABOUT 18 X 13 INCHES AND IT COMES IN A VELVET CASE. MR. MUSTAFA EXPLAINED THAT HIS ASSOCIATION CONSISTS OF 5,000 MEMBERS IN THE CAIRO AREA WITH AFFILIATES IN OTHER PARTS OF EGYPT AND THE ARAB WORLD; IT IS DEDICATED TO TEACHING THE KORAN

TO YOUNG PEOPLE AND APPEARS SIMILAR TO YMCA AND YWCA.
MR. MUSTAFA SAID THAT HE HAD THAT MORNING PERSONALLY
PRESENTED A SIMILAR PLAQUE TO PRESIDENT SADAT AS A
GESTURE OF THE ASSOCIATION'S SUPPORT FOR HIS PEACE
EFFORTS. FOLLOWING IS TRANSLATION OF TEXT OF LETTER
ADDRESSED TO PRESIDENT CARTER FROM MR. MUSTAFA.

"MR. PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER
PRESIDENT OF THE U.S.A.

- GREETINGS. IN THE NAME OF THE GENERAL ASSOCIATION
FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE KORAN, AT CAIRO, WE BLESS
AND THANK YOUR FRUITFUL EFFORTS SUPPORTING THE INITIATIVE
ANNOUNCED BY PRESIDENT MOHAMED ANWAR EL SADAT, PRESIDENT
OF THE A.R.E., WHO IS CARRYING ITS BANNER TO ACHIEVE
PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST REGION, AND FIND A SOLUTION
CONSISTENT WITH HOLY PRINCIPLES, FOR THE CAUSE OF THE
PEOPLE OF PALESTINE.

- TRULY HISTORY RECORDED YOUR MOMENTOUS DEED AND GREAT
ATTITUDE. THE ASSOCIATION IS PLEASED TO OFFER YOU MR.
PRESIDENT 'THE PEACE COAT' AS A SYMBOL OF RECOGNITION
AND APPRECIATION. MAY THE ALMIGHTY LEAD YOU TO SUCCESS.

- SINCERELY,
- PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION
- MOHAMED ABDEL MAGSOOD MUSTAFA
- LAWYER BEFORE SUPREME COURT OF
APPEAL"

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 CAIRO 22583 221544Z

3. PAINTING OF PRESIDENT CARTER. ON DECEMBER 22 A
17-YEAR-OLD EGYPTIAN PAINTER FROM THE CITY OF SUEZ,
MOHAMMED BAKR, PRESENTED TO THE AMBASSADOR A PORTRAIT
PAINTED BY HIM OF PRESIDENT CARTER. PAINTING, WHICH IS
MOUNTED IN HANDSOME AND ORNATE GILT FRAME AND IS ABOUT
5 X 4 FEET, WAS PAINTED FROM PHOTOGRAPHS OF PRESIDENT
CARTER. IT IS IN FACT QUITE A GOOD LIKENESS AND IS OF
PROFESSIONAL QUALITY. A GREAT DEAL OF SKILL AND EFFORT
MUST HAVE GONE INTO IT.

4. ON BOTH THESE OCCASIONS EMBASSY COULD NOT HAVE
REFUSED THE GIFTS WITHOUT APPEARING RUDE AND INSENSITIVE
TO THE SKILL, EFFORT AND FRIENDLY SENTIMENTS WHICH LAY
BEHIND THESE OFFERINGS. BOTH GIFTS SHOW HIGH QUALITY
WORKMANSHIP AND ARTISTRY AND ARE ATTRACTIVE MOMENTOS OF
SPONTANEOUS EGYPTIAN SUPPORT FOR EFFORTS OF PRESIDENT
SADAT AND PRESIDENT CARTER TO BRING PEACE TO THE MIDDLE
EAST. IF DEPARTMENT AGREES, EMBASSY WILL ARRANGE TO
HAVE THEM SHIPPED TO PROTOCOL FOR DELIVERY TO THE WHITE
HOUSE. IN ANY CASE, EMBASSY WOULD HOPE THAT BRIEF
LETTERS OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND THANKS COULD BE SENT FROM
PRESIDENT CARTER TO MESSRS. MUSTAFA AND BAKR. PLEASE
ADVISE. EILTS

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